

VALUE OF FANCY POULTRY.—MR. L. Wright, in the *Journal of Horticulture*, says, "Many still speak of the poultry fancy as a mere hobby, while in point of fact it has become a very serious business. Carried on by many of the highest, fairest, and most honorable in the land; and the mere amount of money invested in it, if calculated, would make every reader of this journal stare."

SELECTING EGGS TO PRODUCE COCK OR HEN CHICKENS.—The following is from the same journal: "We have tried the egg question by ourselves, and with the 'learned' in such matter. We always failed. It is said the great success of 'Francis' Moore, Physician, with his 'Vox Stellarum,' or 'Loyal Almanack,' arose from the fact that when once he was walking up and down the room in a brown study, and his clerks were compiling the almanack for the following year, the subordinate who had charge of the month of June, asked him every time he passed, 'Weather, sir, for the 3rd of June?' Francis Moore bore it as long as he could. He showed his temper. It took no effect; and as he passed the desk, he heard for the two hundred and eighty-first time: 'Weather, sir, for the 3rd of June?' We object to print the first part of the speech, but the end was, '— you, sir, frost and snow.' It did freeze, and there was snow on that day. He was a made man. A chance made him; and the same may be said of the fortunate person who warranted thirteen eggs to produce twelve pullets and a cock. Fortune favours the bold. Ask him to try again. A friend of ours, by no means distinguished as a shot, went as an amateur to a rifle corps target, and on being asked to take a shot, made a careless bull's eye at 600 yards. He was wise. He merely remarked it was an easy range, and went away. We know a man who deals in eggs in the season. He told us he received a postage stamp for five shillings, and a request that he would forward eggs warranted to produce a cock and three hens, common pheasants.

POUTER PIGEONS.

We abstract the following remarks on the Pouter Pigeon, from the letter of "Carrier," in the *Field* newspaper. To breed high class pigeons good requires considerable experience, to be gained by time and attention alone. There is no royal road to this knowledge. The amateur must bring his own reasoning to bear, and note patiently the differences in birds he meets with, and the young ones they throw. By this means he will learn what birds to match together to produce a required result, and what kinds of the same breed to avoid matching together.

The legs of a Pouter Pigeon should be as long as they can be bred with. Seven inches is a great length; not one bird in a hundred of the whole of the pouters living measure it, nor one in a thousand $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, if properly measured. The right way to measure is this: Take a narrow tape measure, previously ascertained to be correct; lay it on the leg of the bird, and place the edge of a knife on the measure, fairly in the centre of the top joint of the bird's thigh, not the body joint; straighten the leg, and press the knife down to hold the measure tight. Measure from the edge of the knife to the extremity of the toe nail of the centre toe. The measure must not be pressed down on to the leg so as to follow its shape, but pulled straight out. There is no fixed standard of length for a good pouter cock. Twenty inches is a good length, above the average; but many exceed it. A longer pigeon would always have the point given in its favour in competition.

The writer then further quotes from an article from the Birmingham Columbarian Society on the points of pouter pigeons, as follows: "Blue pouters should be of a clean bright colour, a shade darker upon the head, neck, and tail and elsewhere; the sides of the wings, breast, and back should be blue, descending from the neck, and terminating in a distinct blue from thigh to thigh; the wing coverts, as in nearly all blue pigeons, should be crossed with two black bars. There is also a black band nearly at the edge of the tail. On the sides of the wings, and near to the shoulder, should be a few white feathers; these are called the rose, and when good and distinct are a great set